

Audiences saw their own lives in 'Eta Amaderi Golpo': MOSTAFA KAMAL RAZ

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz's latest drama, *Eta Amaderi Golpo*, has emerged as one of the most talked-about and widely appreciated productions, resonating deeply with viewers.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the acclaimed director reflects on the drama's overwhelming success, the return of family narratives, and what lies ahead.

Did you expect 'Eta Amaderi Golpo' to become this popular?

To be honest, when I began working on it, my only intention was to create something meaningful. I never imagined it would receive this much love or be embraced so widely. The fact that viewers have found reflections of their own lives in the story is what has taken it this far. For that, I am truly grateful.



Cast of 'Eta Amaderi Golpo'

Why do you think audiences have connected with the drama so strongly?

I believe the simplicity and authenticity of the story are the key reasons. There's no exaggeration in it. Instead, it portrays familiar people, relationships, and emotions from our everyday lives.

Your work is being widely discussed again after a long time. How does that feel as a director?

It feels incredibly rewarding. When audiences accept a work as their own, it makes all the effort worthwhile. At the same time, it also increases the responsibility to deliver even better work in the

future.

Will there be a second season of the drama?

There won't be a second season, but something new is definitely coming. However, I want to ensure that whatever comes next maintains the same beauty and meaning before making any final decision.

As a director, what is your greatest achievement?

The greatest achievement is the love of the audience. Especially the comments on YouTube—when people share how deeply they feel the story or how it reflects their own lives, nothing can be more rewarding than that.

To be honest, the drama will conclude next month. For all of us who have been part of this journey, working together for so long, it had begun to feel like a family. That is why, the ending feels quite emotional.

I want to ensure that whatever comes next maintains the same beauty and meaning before making any final decision.



Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz

'Domm' set for nationwide single-screen release



Following its Eid release, *Domm* has drawn strong audiences in multiplexes across the country. The film is now set to expand its reach, with a nationwide release in single-screen theatres from tomorrow (April 24).

Production houses SVF Alpha-i Entertainment Limited and Choraki confirmed that the Redoan Rony directorial will be screened in more than 50 theatres across Bangladesh, making it more accessible to general audiences.

The film has also performed strongly overseas, with releases in Australia, the United States, and Canada. In North America, the number of theatres screening the film increased significantly within a week due to audience demand.

Domm stars Afran Nisho, Puja Chery, Chanchal Chowdhury, and Dolly Zahur among others.

Aranyak to stage 'Rarang' on May Day

Theatre troupe Aranyak will stage its 45th production, *Rarang*, on May 1 at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the National Theatre complex, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, marking International Workers' Day.

Written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, *Rarang* examines the marginalisation of Santals, portraying their daily hardships, resistance and fight for dignity. The cast includes Mamunur Rashid, Shamim Zaman, Arif Hossain Apel, Sajjad Saju, and Sujat Shimul, among others.

As part of its May Day programme, Aranyak will also stage a street play titled *Murkho Loker Murkho Kotha*, written and directed by Mannan Hira, at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10 am. The programme will include Baul music performances by Bhabanagar Sadhusanga. Fauzia Moslem, president of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, is expected to attend as a guest.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Siddhartha'

Arshinagar revives its acclaimed *Siddhartha*, a lucid stage adaptation of Hermann Hesse's novel. Directed by Reza Arif, the production follows a restless seeker through austerity, doubt, and awakening—refusing doctrine in favour of lived truth. Restrained, character-driven, and intellectually precise, it frames a timeless inquiry into meaning, faith, and the cost of self-realisation.

Date: Today | April 23, 2026
Time: 4 pm and 7 pm onwards
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA

NEWS

13 top police officials

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officers were retired in the public interest under the relevant provisions of the government service rules. The order took effect immediately.

The notification, however, did not disclose specific reasons behind the move, but added that the officers will receive retirement benefits as per rules.

Since the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024, more than 60 police officials have been sent into retirement under Section 45, according to police sources.

24 SENIOR COPS TRANSFERRED

The government, in a major reshuffle, has also transferred 24 senior police officials, including one additional inspector general of police, seven DIGs, three additional DIGs, and

13 superintendents of police.

The home ministry issued three separate orders yesterday, marking the second consecutive day of administrative changes in the police force.

With yesterday's orders, 30 police positions have been reshuffled in two days.

Among them, Police Telecom DIG Rezaul Karim has been made chief of the Naval Police, while Police Headquarters DIG Khondoker Nazmul Hasan has been appointed commandant of Tangail Police Training Centre. Outgoing commandant Ashfaqul Alam has been posted to Police Headquarters as DIG.

On Tuesday, six SPs were transferred to different units.

Lost for 27yrs, home at last

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For 27 years, there was no trace of him. His family searched, waited, and eventually feared he might be dead.

The breakthrough came recently in Penang, when a group of Bangladeshi migrants found Amir living in a small tin shed in a jungle, in a mentally unstable state.

They brought him to safety and shared photos and videos on social media, the press release said.

The posts drew attention from Bangladeshi expatriate journalist Bappi Kumar Das and another migrant in Penang, Dipu, who helped circulate the information and alert BRAC.

Amir's family later identified him from the images, it added.

Following verification, the Bangladesh High Commission in

Malaysia issued a travel pass and facilitated his return.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, described the case as deeply distressing.

The case highlights the risks and uncertainty faced by migrant workers.

"A person may remain mentally unwell abroad without anyone knowing. We have seen similar incidents before. We do not know how many others may be facing such crises."

Shariful stressed the need for better tracking of migrant workers.

"In this age of technology, maintaining a database of migrant workers is not impossible; it is necessary. They are citizens of this country, and they sustain our economy."

Baby's life gone in moments

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roadside tree.

The baby was in the lap of Dulali at that time, said Irin's father Akhtarul Islam.

"A bus was parked a few yards away. All of a sudden, the bus started and abruptly reversed," said Akhtarul.

The grandmother tried to move away quickly, but in the confusion and panic, the baby slipped from her arms and fell to the ground.

Before anyone could reach her, the bus ran over the infant, killing her on the spot, added Akhtarul.

Three injured — Irin, Dulali, and Shimu — were hospitalised, he said.

Even the bystanders stood frozen in shock, as if the loss belonged to everyone who witnessed it.

Shariful Islam Shakil, sub-inspector of Birol Police Station, said the accident occurred when the bus helper tried to reverse the vehicle without checking what was behind him.

Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper managed to flee.

No case was filed till filing of this report around 8:00pm yesterday, he said.

Govt eyeing \$2b

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place in one go, will be sent once Prime Minister Tarique Rahman signs off on key conditions.

While funds under RFI would be provided without conditionality or reviews, a commitment to continuing with key reforms under the \$5.5 billion loan programme is needed.

The government is weighing the implications of implementing the conditions for the emergency funding, the finance ministry officials.

The reforms that the IMF is insisting on are articulated in the Article IV Consultation in January.

The IMF pressed for continuation of tight monetary policy, further market-based exchange rate reforms, faster restructuring of weak banks asset

quality reviews of state-owned banks and amendments to the Bangladesh Bank autonomy law.

The other conditions include reducing subsidies on electricity and fertiliser, and raising revenue collection by 0.7 percent of GDP in the next fiscal year.

Recent IMF Technical Assistance on tax policy indicates scope to raise revenue by more than 2 percent of GDP in the short-term through unifying the VAT rate at 15 percent and narrowing VAT exemptions; raising the minimum turnover tax rate to 2 percent and applying it to all companies; introducing a modern excise act for tobacco; and introducing excise taxes on imported motive fuels at the equivalent of \$50 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions plus the pollution cost, says the Article

IV report.

Rationalising non-energy subsidies could help create fiscal space.

With no premium between the official and the market exchange rates, the remittance subsidy (about 0.15 percent of GDP) is no longer necessary to encourage repatriation through official channels and should be phased out.

A comprehensive strategy to optimise production capacity and adjust fertiliser prices would help reduce fertiliser subsidies, which reached 0.8 percent of GDP in fiscal 2024-25.

Enhancing targeted transfers while broadening the social safety net is vital to protecting the vulnerable, the IMF said.

The authorities have consolidated social programmes from 150 to 95 and improved beneficiary eligibility. However, the coverage of the poor population is low. The recently started development of a dynamic social registry will support better targeting and coverage of social assistance.

In the near-term, the government could use the poverty map to inform the allocation of social transfers while rationalising energy tariffs.

The Bangladesh Bank should establish procedures for bank viability assessments and engage reputable local and international experts to support restructuring/resolution work and strengthen operational capacity.

Non-viable banks should not be merged before cleaning up their balance sheets and evaluating the cost of integrating banks and their systems.

Tarique flags measles test

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other facilities, measles detection systems have been shut down.

As a result, samples are being sent from different institutes and hospitals to the National Public and Rubella Laboratory at the Public Health Centre in Dhaka. This means patients must wait for diagnosis even after vaccines are available.

In reply, the prime minister said all political parties — in and outside parliament — worked together to remove an autocratic regime from the country.

"The sad reality is what happened during that autocratic period. Even more unfortunate is that the interim government we supported, hoping it would ensure a fair and neutral election, failed in a crucial

responsibility. During its tenure, measles vaccines for children were not imported," he said.

"Naturally, when this crisis emerged, we had to act quickly," he said, adding that Unicef provided support by sending measles vaccines on an urgent basis.

"As a result, we were able to vaccinate nearly two crore children.

"Many kits have already arrived. One kit can be used to test three children. Some kits are stuck at customs at the Dhaka airport, and we are taking steps to release them quickly," Tarique added.

"Tragically, many children have already lost their lives. But going forward, the government is making every effort to manage this situation and has taken necessary measures," the prime minister said.

Breaking out of 'phone jail'

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But in the end, he said, it was liberating.

"I was bored sometimes, and that's okay," West recalled one recent evening at a city community garden where detox participants met to share their struggles and joys of disconnecting. "It's okay to be bored."

Sitting beside him was Rachael Schultz, 35, who had to ask strangers on bicycles for directions. There was also Lizzie Benjamin, 25, who dug out old CDs her father had burned so she could listen to music without Spotify.

Before the detox, Bobby Loomis, 25, who works in real estate, struggled to watch even a single episode of a TV series without checking his phone.

But now, without his headphones, he enjoyed listening to birds sing as he took walks around Washington. And when the detox ended, his daily screen time dropped from six to four hours, roughly in line with the

average for American adults.

Scientists have long been sounding the alarm, warning that cell phone addiction is associated with shortened attention spans, sleep problems and anxiety.

In a landmark ruling in late March, a California court ruled Instagram and YouTube are liable for the addictive nature of their platforms.

An increasing number of young Americans are finally taking note. According to a YouGov poll conducted last year, more than two-thirds of people aged 18 to 29 would like to reduce their screen time.

And new tools are available to make that happen: digital detox apps, phone-blocking gadgets, and groups, such as the one in Washington, that facilitate month-long detoxes. On university campuses, weeks-long social media diets have become popular and screen-free evenings among friends have become a thing in big cities.

28th death anniv

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of Women and Children Repression delivered the verdict in September 2003, sentencing six accused to death for the rape and murder.

They are domestic worker Shahidul; contractor Syed Sajjad Mainuddin and his assistant Badal, who were tasked with renovating the house; housemaid Estema Khatun Minu and her sister Parvin; and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

After the lower court verdict, the death reference reached the High Court for confirmation of the sentences. At the same time, the accused appealed to the High

Court against their convictions and sentences. The HC acquitted Shaniram.

Later, Hasan, Badal, Minu and Parvin appealed to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC verdict, while Shahidul filed a jail appeal.

On August 2, 2016, the Appellate Division granted the appeals of Hasan, Badal, Minu and Parvin and dismissed Shahidul's.

On March 5, 2017, the apex court rejected Shahidul's petition for review of the verdict. He sought presidential mercy, which was turned down.

He was executed on November 29 that year.

West Bengal goes to polls

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a comfortable lead for the TMC, with 174-184 seats in the 294-member assembly — well above the 148 needed for a majority.

The survey also indicates a strong showing by the BJP, projecting 108-118 seats.

In the 2021 elections, the TMC won 215 seats, while the BJP secured 77. Although the BJP failed to unseat Banerjee, the result marked a

significant rise for the party from its previously marginal presence in the state.

A C-Voter survey also suggests a close contest, projecting the TMC at 44 percent of the vote share and the BJP close behind at 40 percent.

Voting will be held in two phases — on April 23 and April 29 — covering 152 and 142 constituencies, respectively. Counting is scheduled for May 4.